

Abstract

5 The subject invention provides novel and advantageous methods for growing bacteria. The methods of the subject invention are particularly advantageous for growing parasitic bacteria, *in vitro*, without the presence of host tissue. In one embodiment of the subject invention, *Pasteuria* spores, such as those that infect the rootknot nematode *Meloidogyne arenaria* or other host nematodes, are grown *in vitro*. The process of the subject invention is highly advantageous because *Pasteuria* can be grown in the absence of nematode tissue.